



NGC News

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NGC Signs Exclusive Agreement with Major League Baseball

NGC will encapsulate the National Baseball Hall of Fame commemoratives and other legal tender coins with attractive certification labels that feature a range of popular MLB trademarks.

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Free NGC Grading Evaluations at Mish International

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USA Coin Album: Distinguishing Early Proof Coins - A Blend of Science and Intuition (Part 1)

Since the beginning of modern proof coin sales in 1936, there has been little difficulty in establishing whether or not a coin is indeed a proof.

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From the NGC Archives: 1847 Coronet Half Eagle

The nation's first gold rush began in the late 1820s in northern Georgia and the Carolinas.

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NCS Conservation Showcase: China 1984 Gold 100 Yuan Haungdi

Modern coins can develop residues and spots that may affect a coin's grade. NCS conservation can often help return a coin's surfaces to their original state.

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Chinese Coins: Platinum Panda Coins

By Peter Anthony

A handful of Chinese Panda coins, including the 1994 to 1997 Platinum coins, are struck by other mints.

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Martin Weiss and Chinese Panda Coins

By Peter Anthony

Martin Weiss, founder of Panda America, discusses the popular Chinese Panda series.

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Legendary Kann / Sweeny 1900 Peking Set at Macau Auction

The NGC-graded China 1900 Peking set of restrikes is the planned highlight of the November 30 Champion Macau Auction.

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Stephen Winthrop Collection Sale to Benefit ALS Research

The Stephen Winthrop Collection of US Type Coins and Commemoratives will be featured in the Stack's Bowers Americana Showcase and Rarities Night Auction on February 5–6, 2015. All proceeds will be donated to ALS research at Harvard University.

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NGC Grades the Donald G. Partrick Collection, Part I

Posted on 11/10/2014

Heritage Auctions will sell the first part of the NGC-graded Donald G. Partrick Collection of Extraordinary United States Colonials at January's FUN Convention.

NGC has graded Part I of the phenomenal collection of Donald G. Partrick. A serious student of Early American coinage, Partrick carefully assembled a cabinet that boasts a number of iconic Colonial and Early United States issues, including many unique and finest known specimens.

Heritage Auctions will sell The Donald G. Partrick Collection of Extraordinary United States Colonials, Part I at the Florida United Numismatists (FUN) convention auction, January 7-10, 2015. This is the first installment of four auctions of the Partrick Collection, with subsequent sales by Heritage Auctions planned for the 2015 and 2016 American Numismatic Association World's Fair of Money conventions and the January 2016 FUN convention.

The nearly 400 pieces that comprise Part I represent remarkable depth, with multiple examples of many extraordinary types. Most significant is the group of a dozen distinct varieties of 1792 Pattern coins proposed for the first United States coinage. These patterns are capped by the finest known 1792 Judd-4 Pattern Birch Cent, pedigreed to the Garrett Collection. Graded NGC MS 65★ RB, it is a noteworthy seven grade points above the second-finest specimen.



Finest Known 1792 Judd-4 Pattern Birch Cent NGC MS 65★ RB
Click images to enlarge.

The selections also include a 1792 Judd-12 Wright Pattern Quarter in copper that is unique in private hands. It is graded NGC MS 63 BN and pedigreed to the J. Hewitt Judd Collection. A 1792 Judd-9 Pattern Disme in silver, NGC AU 50, also traces its provenance to Judd.

Partrick's 1792 Patterns are followed by 15 Continental Dollars struck in 1776 by the Continental Congress at the start of the American Revolution. A single Continental Dollar would typically be considered an auction highlight. Amazingly, the Partrick Collection contains eight Mint State examples.

"The rarity and quality of the American Colonials in Part I of The Donald G. Partrick Collection are unparalleled," says Mark Salzberg, NGC chairman. "Partrick built the greatest Colonial coin collection in history and NGC is honored to have been chosen to certify selections from it."

Massachusetts is exceptionally well represented in Partrick's collection. Featured are six varieties of rare "NE" shillings, which were issued in 1652 as the first coins struck in the American Colonies. These are followed by a 1652 Willow Tree Sixpence, four 1652 Willow Tree Shillings, more than three dozen 1652 Oak Tree coins, and over 50 specimens of the famed Pine Tree type.

The Partrick Collection also includes a number of 1787 and 1788 Massachusetts half cents and cents. Most significant are three examples of the 1787 Transposed Arrows Massachusetts Cent, a legendary rarity in the series with only around 10 specimens known. Partrick's incredible NGC MS 65 BN specimen is the finest representative of this very challenging variety.

The unique, enigmatic 1776 Janus Head Copper will be featured in Part I. Graded NGC VF 35 BN, it has been held by Partrick since he purchased it from the Garrett Collection in 1979.



1787 Arrows Right Claw 1C NGC MS 65 BN
Click images to enlarge.

A native New Yorker, Partrick acquired a number of exceptional pieces issued by the Colony and, later, the State of New York. Part I has two extremely rare “New Yorke in America” tokens struck circa 1670, including the finest known specimen at NGC AU 50. There are also 16 superb Immune Columbia Coppers and eight experimental Confederatio Coppers from the mid-1780s.

Maryland coins include 13 specimens of Lord Baltimore coinage, struck circa 1659 at the Royal Mint in London. The Partrick Collection features two of the nine known copper Lord Baltimore denarium pieces, one of which is the finest known at NGC MS 62 BN.

Part I of the Partrick Collection also has a complete set of all six varieties of the Annapolis, Maryland-struck 1783 Chalmers coins, including a rare “Rings” type shilling graded NGC VF 25, as well as MS 64 and MS 62 examples of the elusive 1790 Standish Barry Threepence issued in Baltimore.

The unique “The Wheele Goes Round” Higley Copper, NGC VF 30 BN, anchors an impressive group of seven Higley pieces, struck in Connecticut between 1737 and 1739. Another important Higley is the “Value Me As You Please” / “I Am Good Copper” specimen graded NGC XF Details. Only three examples of this well-known variant are believed to have survived.

Several rare and significant Confederate pieces will also be offered in Part I of The Donald G. Partrick Collection. Most notably, the selections feature an NGC PF 30 Original 1861 Confederate Half Dollar pedigreed to Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederate States of America. There are also two Original 1861 Confederate Cents graded PF 63 and PF 62.

Visit the Heritage Auctions website, [HA.com](https://www.ha.com), for additional information about this and future Partrick Collection sales.

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United States

NGC Signs Exclusive Agreement with Major League Baseball

Posted on 10/23/2014

NGC will encapsulate the National Baseball Hall of Fame commemoratives and other legal tender coins with attractive certification labels that feature a range of popular MLB trademarks.

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) has been granted exclusive rights by Major League Baseball Properties (MLBP) to produce certification labels that feature the logos of MLB clubs and stadiums.

Baseball is known as “America’s National Pastime” and enjoys a rich history that dates back more than 175 years. Steeped in tradition, baseball evokes more nostalgia among Americans than any other sport.

Major League Baseball traces its roots to 1869 and now includes 30 clubs in cities throughout the United States and Canada. MLB and its clubs boast some of the most devoted fans of any sport in the world.

These ardent baseball fans share much in common with coin collectors as demonstrated by the U.S. Mint’s highly successful 2014 National Baseball Hall of Fame commemorative coins. The crossover appeal of baseball and coins resulted in the near-immediate sellout of the National Baseball Hall of Fame gold five dollars and silver dollars.

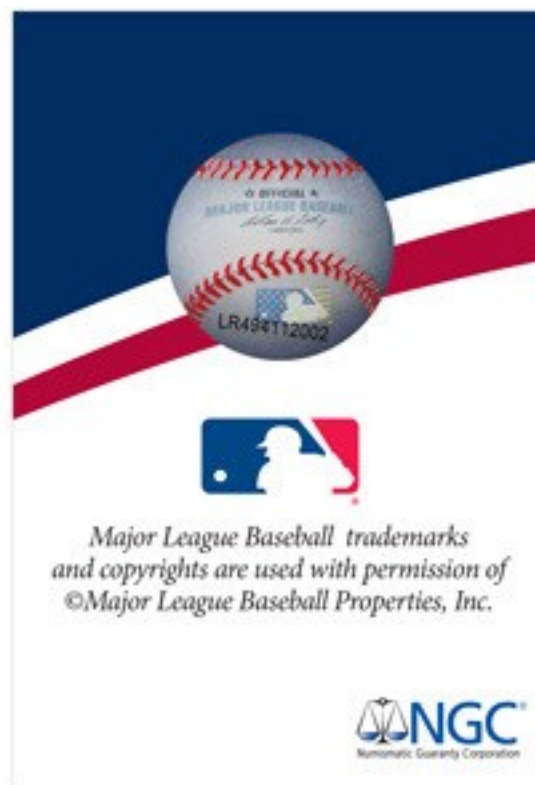
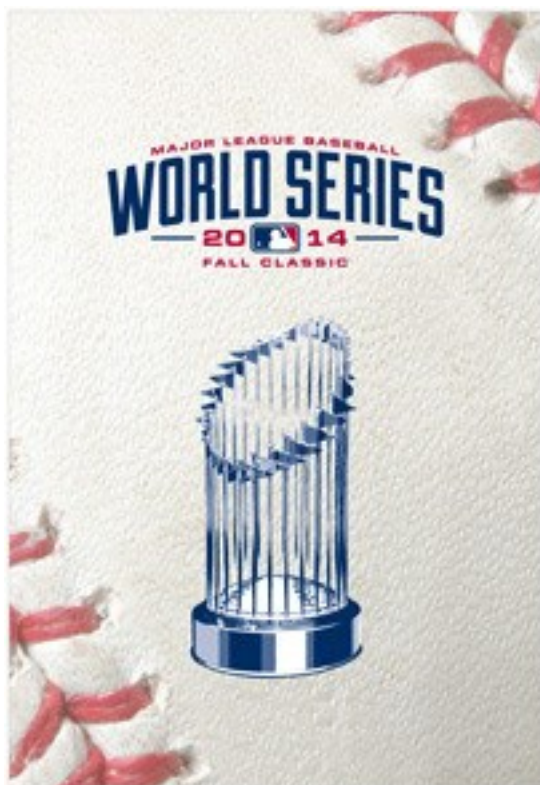


NGC and the exclusive MLB agreement present baseball fans and coin collectors with an exciting new opportunity to combine their passions for the sport and the hobby. NGC will encapsulate the National Baseball Hall of Fame commemoratives and other legal tender coins with attractive certification labels that feature a range of popular MLB trademarks, including the MLB silhouetted batter logo, the logos of the 30 clubs, stadium imagery, MLB All-Star Game logos and more.



“Americans have a special relationship with baseball that’s built upon both the fond memories of the game’s past and the thrilling new moments that it provides fans today,” says Steven R. Eichenbaum, CEO of NGC. “NGC-certified coins with MLB labels not only appeal to coin collectors who follow baseball, but also to the millions of baseball fans who want a new and interesting way to show their devotion. This program has the potential to introduce countless baseball fans to the coin collecting hobby.”

The first of these MLB labels will showcase 2014 National and American League Champions logos and the MLB World Series Champions logo. NGC-certified National Baseball Hall of Fame half dollars and American Silver Eagles with the MLB World Series Champions labels are available now exclusively from GovMint.com and [SilverTowne](http://SilverTowne.com).



*Each holder will be accompanied by a card with
an MLB hologram with a unique serial number*

Collectors should watch for a suite of new NGC labels featuring MLB logos, which will include a special program to coincide with MLB Opening Day on April 6, 2015. More details will be announced by NGC later this year.

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United States

Free NGC Grading Evaluations at Mish International

Posted on 11/11/2014

Senior NGC graders Mark Salzberg and David Camire will perform free evaluations at the Mish International showroom on November 22. The showroom will also host a special lot viewing event for the upcoming Champion Macau Auction. Be sure to schedule your appointment soon!

NGC's Mark Salzberg and David Camire will be at Mish International's Menlo Park showroom on Saturday, November 22, to perform free evaluations for the public. Mish International will also host a special lot viewing event for the November 2014 Champion Macau Auction, which features a number of extraordinary NGC-certified vintage Chinese rarities.

Mark Salzberg, the chairman of NGC, is widely considered to be one of the world's foremost grading experts. An NGC grader since 1988, Salzberg has graded many of the world's most important vintage US rarities, including the 200 greatest pieces in the Smithsonian Institution's National Numismatic Collection. In his role as NGC's chairman and its most senior grader, Salzberg has played a central role in the standardization of today's highly precise grading scale and the promotion of numismatics around the world.

David Camire serves dual roles as an NGC Finalizer and the president of Numismatic Conservation Services (NCS), an independent affiliate of NGC. Camire is one of the world's top experts on modern Chinese coins, professional numismatic conservation, mint errors and the minting process. He has consulted for the US Secret Service, the Smithsonian Institution and the United States Mint.

"As NGC is the world's most respected independent numismatic grading service, we are honored to host two of their most noted analysts of coin quality and authenticity," said Robert Mish, President of Mish International. "The Silicon Valley is famous as the home of the world's most successful technology, venture capital,

and social media companies. We are not surprised that a growing number of people here are discovering the scholastic fulfillment and investment potential of rare coins. It is natural that the history, art, culture and technology of 2,500 years of world monies would appeal to this well educated sector. The November 22 event will give them an opportunity to network and meet the NGC experts who finalize the grades of their prized rare coins."

During the evaluation event Mish International will display NGC-certified lots from the Champion Macau Auction to be held November 30 in conjunction with the Macau Numismatic Society show. Among the sale's highlights is the legendary 1900 Peking Restrike Set formerly in the collection of famed author Eduard Kann. The set includes a 5 Cent (NGC MS 61), 10 Cent (NGC MS 61), 20 Cent (NGC MS 63), 50 Cent (NGC MS 61) and Dollar (NGC MS 61), and has an estimate of \$250,000 to \$500,000.

[View the Champion auction catalog >](#)

Michael Chou of Champion Auctions said: "NGC is the leader in certifying Chinese coins. We have worked with NGC to have it certify the only three Chinese numismatic rarities to exceed one million US dollars at auction or private treaty sale. Two of these great rarities will be on display at the Macau Numismatic Society show, November 27-30."

To read the full announcement of the sale with additional highlights, [click here](#).

The evaluations and lot viewing will be held November 22 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at Mish International's showroom at 1154 University Drive, Menlo Park, California. Appointments are required. To schedule an appointment, please call 1-650-324-9110.

Auction catalogs are available at the Mish International showroom or by email request to office@mishinternational.com.

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NGC Registry Awards 2014

Posted on 10/16/2014

Every year, NGC awards the top Competitive Sets and Custom Sets in the NGC Registry. Ensure your set is at its best by 5 p.m. ET on December 3 to be automatically considered for awards. Winners will be announced January 9, 2015.

As in past years, the winners will include world-class collections and incredible exhibitions. Make sure yours are among them, and see if your collection has what it takes! This year, awards are being presented in the following categories:

Competitive Set Awards

Awards will be presented in the following four categories:

- The FIVE Best CLASSIC Sets: 1792-1964
- The FIVE Best MODERN Sets: 1950 to date (including Jefferson Nickels and Roosevelt Dimes)
- The FIVE Best PRESENTED Sets: Sets with the best descriptive text and coin images
- The FIVE Best WORLD Sets

Custom Set Awards

Awards will be presented in the following five categories:

- The Best Overall Custom Set
- The Best World Custom Set
- The Best Ancient Custom Set
- The Most Creative Custom Set
- The Most Informative Custom Set

Take the honors in one of these categories, and you'll receive a personalized plaque, an icon of recognition next to your set's registry listing and up to five Deluxe PHOTO PROOFS® or five NGC Photo Vision™ presentations of NGC

coins from your winning set.

To participate, just enter your set online in the [NGC Registry](#). Sets must be at least 50% complete to be eligible for the award categories above.

Collectors Journal Awards

Additionally, we will award three outstanding Collectors Journal authors. We will consider an author's complete collection of journal entries in determining the winners. Journals entries will be judged on writing talent, creativity, enthusiasm, numismatic knowledge and, most importantly, the sharing of a personal sense of the collecting journey. The winning authors will receive a personalized plaque and an icon of recognition on their homepages.

Also, collectors with the #1 set in each category and collectors with the #1 ranked NGC exclusive set in each category will receive an icon of recognition by his/her set in the Registry and a certificate of achievement.

Obscured sets will not be considered for awards. If an owner of an obscured set wishes to compete for awards and have the rank of their set displayed, they must change their set from obscured to public by October 1, 2014.

The deadline for set registration and journal entries is 5 p.m. ET on December 3, 2014.

Winners will be announced on January 9, 2015.

[Click to view previous year's award winners.](#)

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NGC Registry News

Posted on 11/11/2014

Check out the newest world sets added to the NGC Registry this month, including three new categories.

We've added a number of new world sets and slots this month:

World Sets

- Andorra: Silver 25 Dinars, 1984-Date, Complete
- Andorra: Gold 50 Dinars, 1989-Date, Proof
- Canada - Commemorative: Farewell to the Penny Series, 2012, Complete
- Essequibo & Demerary: Type Set, 1809-1835, Complete
- Essequibo & Demerary: Guilder, 1809-1835, Circulation Issue
- Essequibo & Demerary: 2 Guilder, 1809-1832, Circulation Issue
- Essequibo & Demerary: 3 Guilder, 1809-1832, Circulation Issue
- Spain: 50 Centimos, 1949-1963, Circulation Issue
- French Oceania: Type Set, 1948-52, Complete

We added three new categories: FRENCH OCEANIA, BRITISH GUIANA, and POLYNESIA. Look for new sets in China, Mongolia, Malaysia, and other categories soon.

Here is just a sample of some of the new slots we have added this month including several 2015 world slots:

- Australia - Lunar Set Name: Lunar Coins, Silver Half Dollars, Series Two (With Colorized) 2008-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2015 YEAR OF THE GOAT
- Australia - Lunar Set Name: Lunar Coins, Silver Half Dollars, Series Two, 2008-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2015P YEAR OF THE GOAT
- Australia - Bullion Set Name: Kangaroo Silver Dollars, 1990-Date, Complete (Incl. Varieties) Slot Name: 2015 KANGAROO MS
- Australia - Bullion Set Name: Kangaroo Silver Dollars, 1990-Date, Complete (Incl. Varieties) Slot Name: 2015 EXPLORERS FIRST SIGHTINGS

KANGAROO PF

- Australia - Bullion Set Name: Kangaroo Silver Dollars, 1 Ounce, 1993-Date, Mint State Slot Name: 2015 S\$1 Kangaroo
- Australia - Bullion Set Name: Kangaroo Silver Dollars, 1 Ounce, 1998-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2015 Kangaroo Explorers First Sightings
- Australia - Lunar Set Name: Lunar Coins, Silver Dollars, Series Two, 2008-Date, Proof Slot Name: 2015P YEAR OF THE GOAT
- China - Panda Set Name: Panda Anniversary Issues, Complete Slot Name: 2012 ISSUANCE OF GOLD PANDA S3Y PF
- China - Panda Set Name: Panda Anniversary Issues, Complete Slot Name: 2012 ISSUANCE OF GOLD PANDA 5oz S50Y PF
- China - Panda Set Name: Silver 10Y Panda Commemoratives, 1991-Date, Mint State and Proof Slot Name: 2013 SHANGHAI PUDONG BANK 20TH ANNIVERSARY (MS)

Start your collection now, and participate in the [2014 NGC Registry Awards](#). Find an NGC Registry category that interests you, and add your certified coins. Our judges will evaluate all sets as of December 3, 2014. Ensure your set is at its best by 5pm ET on December 3, to be automatically considered for awards. If you're not familiar with the [NGC Registry](#) take some time to explore it, and see the many collecting options that are available—it's free!

We have started to add new 2015 slots to the NGC Registry sets. Do you own a certified coin that needs a slot in the Registry? If so, please shoot us an email, and let us know. We are happy to add it for you.

If you don't see the set categories that interest you, drop us a note and let us know. Reach us by e-mail at registry@NGCcoin.com. We look forward to seeing your coin collection in the 2014 NGC Registry competition.

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 United States 

NGC Accepting Submissions at the Houston Money Show

Posted on 11/11/2014

NGC will be accepting submissions at the Houston Money Show. Stop by to drop off your coins!

NGC will be accepting regular submissions for all service levels* at the [Houston Money Show](#), at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, TX from Thursday, December 4 to 12:00 pm on Saturday, December 6, 2014. **Saturday cut-off time may change due to submission volumes.** Check with representatives at the NGC booth for details including any changes to the Saturday cut-off time.



All submissions will be sent to our office in Sarasota, FL. Services include World Services, Ancient Coin Services, Bulk, PHOTO PROOF® and more.

Note:

- Due to the special handling required, NGC does not accept submissions of the following coins at this show for regular service submissions to be returned to the NGC offices: Coins over 3.5" (90 mm) in diameter and .39" (10 mm) in depth, Kennedy Half Dollar 50th Anniversary Commemoratives, 2014 Baseball Hall of Fame Commemoratives, 2013 American Buffalo One Ounce Gold Reverse Proof, West Point 2-coin set, San Francisco 2-coin Proof set, Coin & Currency sets, 25th Anniversary Eagles, 20th Anniversary Eagles, Early/First Releases, American Liberty Series and 10th Anniversary Platinum Sets. These submissions must be sent directly to Sarasota, FL, by the submitter.
- *Does not include 5-ounce coins.

Questions should be directed to NGC customer service at service@NGCcoin.com

or 1-800-NGC-COIN (642-2646).

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United States

NGC Ancients: Biblical Coins

Posted on 11/11/2014

The most eagerly sought of all Biblical coins are the “30 pieces of silver,” the Tribute Penny, the Widow’s Mite and the bronzes of Pontius Pilate.

Biblical coinage is one of the most popular areas of ancient numismatics. Occasionally, coins are mentioned in the text of the Bible, and such coins are in great demand by those making an effort to gain a stronger connection to the Biblical world.

There are many approaches to collecting Biblical coins. Some are inventive and challenging, such as finding a coin from each person and city mentioned in the Bible, or collecting based upon the Seven Churches of Asia Minor or the Travels of Paul of Tarsus. Other collectors seek out a much broader scope of related coins, many of which are not strictly Biblical, but which concern the history of the Holy Land.

The most eagerly sought of all Biblical coins, however, are four especially famous types: the “thirty pieces of silver,” the “Tribute Penny,” the “Widow’s Mite,” and the bronzes of Pontius Pilate, the Roman procurator under whom Jesus was crucified. Though these four types are desirable to numismatists, the greatest demand is by those who otherwise have never participated in our hobby, but who know of them only through their deep religious interest.

Thirty Pieces of Silver. Matthew 26:15-16, 27:3, and 27:5-6 describe how thirty silver coins were promised to Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus and how, after his deed had been done, Judas sank into remorse and cast aside the coins he had received as his bounty. These events are of great significance to Biblical history, and many people try to acquire an example of the coins described. It is generally accepted that the coins paid to Judas were shekels from the mint of Tyre, a coastal city in Phoenicia.

At this time in history Tyre was the only producer of high-purity silver coins in the

region, and it is unlikely that any other coin – including Roman tetradrachms, which were of debased silver – would have served the purpose described. Indeed, at this time Jews paid their annual half-shekel contribution to the Jerusalem Temple in its only accepted form – silver coins of Tyre. The one illustrated here is dated to the 159th year of the city of Tyre, equating A.D. 33 or 34; as such, it is in high demand for it may have been struck in the year of the Crucifixion.



Tribute Penny. Jesus' pronouncement "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21) is known to most who everyone familiar with the Bible or with Biblical history. Its numismatic relevance lies in the fact that Jesus used a Roman coin as the central object in a larger discussion of the lawfulness of Jews paying taxes to the Romans.

There is much debate over which coin Jesus was describing. In truth, there are a number of possibilities. The only limiting factors are that it would have to bear an image of a Roman ruler accompanied by an inscription naming that ruler, and that it would have to have been struck some time prior to Jesus' pronouncement. The text does not specifically name the denomination of the coin, nor does it indicate the language of the inscription, nor which ruler was portrayed.

Ever in need of codifying such things, numismatists have traditionally identified the standard silver denarius of Tiberius (A.D. 14-37) as the likely candidate.



However, such coins are rarely found in the Holy Land, and seemingly never in

quantity. Thus, a debased silver tetradrachm of the Roman mint at Antioch, or a silver denarius of Tiberius' predecessor Augustus are, perhaps, more likely candidates. However, the usual item on the list of most collectors is a denarius of Tiberius, which is supported by a long-established tradition.

Widow's Mite. The passages of Mark 12:41-44 and Luke 21:1-4, which describe the selfless donation of two "mites" to the treasury by a poor widow, are among the most famous in all the Bible. Her donation is often seen as the ultimate act of charity, for even though the sum was paltry it was all that she had to offer, and thus was an act of greater value than those who may have cast in hundreds of silver coins, yet could have afforded still more.

A great variety of small bronzes circulated in Judaea at this time, and any of them could have been the type donated by the widow. Indeed, the two "mites" in question could even have been different coin types. If one wanted to narrow it down to the most probable candidates, the mites likely would have been leptons or prutot of the Hasmonean kings of Judaea struck sometime between 135 B.C. and 37 B.C.

The most common of these coins were a type of prutah struck by King Alexander Jannaeus (103-76 B.C.). They bear his royal inscriptions in both Greek and Hebrew and show on their obverse an anchor (often within in a circle) and on their reverse a star (often within a diadem or a circle of pellets). Though struck long before the Ministry of Jesus, these coins were issued in such large quantities that they still would have been commonly found in circulation at the time. To many they have become the default coin representing the Widow's Mite, in the same way that silver denarii of Tiberius are typically accepted as the Tribute Penny.



Pontius Pilate. As related in John 18:33-35 and in Matthew 27:1-2, 27:22-26, and 27:57-58, Pontius Pilate, the Roman procurator of Judaea during the Ministry of Jesus, was a central figure in the arrest and trial of Jesus. Pilate is presented as being caught squarely between the remarkable acts of Jesus and the demands of

the Jewish priestly hierarchy to take punitive action against Jesus.

Though none of the small bronzes issued by Pilate bear his name, they do have dates that allow their attribution to Pilate to be made with great confidence. All have the Greek inscription TIBEPIOY KAICAPOC, indicating that Tiberius was the reigning emperor of Rome. Further precision is found in the dates on these coins, rendered in terms of the regnal year of Tiberius; they include his 16th, 17th, or 18th year of rule, which represent the period A.D. 29 to 31.

Two designs were employed by Pilate. One shows on its obverse three bound ears of barley and on its reverse a simpulum, a ladle used for religious rituals. The other type, which is more popular, shows a on its obverse a lituus (an augur's wand) and on its reverse the date of issue enclosed within a wreath. The one illustrated here is dated to Tiberius' 17th year, thus A.D. 30.



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Images courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group

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Counterfeit Detection: 1893-O Morgan Dollar

Posted on 11/11/2014

A recent 1893-O Morgan Dollar submission was confirmed a counterfeit when NGC graders identified one telltale sign.

Recently, a well made die struck counterfeit Morgan dollar dated 1893-O was found in a bulk deal while at NGC. While the piece was well made, it had one telltale diagnostic that made it much easier to identify as a counterfeit: the wrong reverse hub type. From 1879-1899, all Morgan dollars were struck with the hub (the tool used to produce coining dies) identified by specialists as the “C3 Reverse Hub,” which is distinguished by the narrow gap between the eagle’s neck and the eagle’s right (facing) wing. This is referred to as the “C” hub by specialists because it is the third major reverse hub type for the Morgan Dollar series, the first being the “A” series for the eight tail feather pieces of 1878 and the second being the “B” series for the various 1878 seven tail feather pieces. The “C” series started with the 1878 Reverse of 1879 dollars and was last used for the 1904 dollars. The “D” series was used only in 1921. After 1899, Morgan dollars started to be minted with the C4 and C4/C3 (the C4/C3 hub is commonly known as the “two olive reverse”) hubs, identified by a much wider and more rounded gap between the eagle’s left (right, if you are the viewer) wing and neck.





Counterfeit 1893-O Morgan Dollar
Click images to enlarge.

Philadelphia and San Francisco began production of C4 and C4/C3 Morgan dollars in 1900 and 1901 alongside the older C3 reverse pieces, before going exclusively to the new reverse hub type in 1902. New Orleans began production of these new reverse hubs in 1901 alongside the older C3 reverse pieces, before going exclusively to the new reverse hub type in 1902. All genuine Morgan dollars from 1902 to 1904 have this “wide gap” reverse.



Left: Genuine C3 reverse hub; Right: Counterfeit with the incorrect C4 Reverse hub, which is identified by the wide and rounded gap between the eagle's neck and the eagle's left (right, if you are the viewer) wing

The 1893-O submitted to NGC, however, had this wide gap C4 reverse—a reverse that was not used in New Orleans until 1901. As a result, this piece had to be a counterfeit. Furthermore, the reverse die was able to be matched to a known counterfeit dollar. While the listing for the counterfeit reverse die isn't found in the *Comprehensive Catalog and Encyclopedia of Morgan and Peace Dollars* by Leroy Van Allen and A. George Mallis, it is listed in *New VAM Varieties of Morgan Dollars* by Leroy Van Allen as a privately made piece, the 1896-O VAM-25 (VAM is an acronym of Van Allen-Mallis, the authors' last names, and used to catalog

Morgan dollar varieties). In addition to comparing the mintmark position, the die flaw evident as a raised lump in front of the D in UNITED served as additional confirmation that the 1893-O shares the same reverse die as 1896-O VAM-25.



Left: Close up of mintmark; Right: The raised lump to the right of the D in UNITED serves as additional confirmation that this counterfeit reverse is the same one used to strike counterfeit 1896-O VAM-25 dollars
Click images to enlarge.

While die struck fakes of New Orleans dollars dated 1896, 1900, 1901, and 1902 are known, for example the Micro O counterfeits and similar pieces such as the 1896-O VAM-25, have been given listings as VAMs, this previously unknown 1893-O is currently unlisted in the VAM book. In fact, this “family” of counterfeits was thought to only span the years 1896-1902.

Outside of the wrong hub type, the 1893-O also has a slightly wavy and granular texture to it as well as a slight loss of sharpness in the devices, both of which are indicative of a counterfeit produced from the transfer die method. Several obverse die flaws are present on this counterfeit, including a raised lump between the second and third stars to the right of the date, and raised lumps above the letters B and U of the legend. The coin weighs 26.5 grams, well within mint tolerance for a Morgan dollar in Fine condition. When a metal test was conducted, the results read the coin was composed of 92.3% silver and 6.7% copper, which is actually above the 90% silver purity mandated by the Mint for minting dollars during this time, and is actually similar in purity to the Micro O and similar counterfeits, which are known to be made from slightly finer silver than 90%.



Additional diagnostic images of this counterfeit

With an NGC US Coin Price Guide value of \$230 for a genuine 1893-O dollar in Fine 12 condition, an unsuspecting or uneducated collector could easily lose hundreds of dollars by buying one of these pieces as genuine. Careful attention to details like hub types and die characteristics comes only from serious study of a

series over a number of years. Specialization in a series can significantly aid in counterfeit detection and, if there is any doubt, certification by NGC gives collectors the confidence to know that every nuance has been closely examined.

As of November 4, this newly discovered counterfeit die variety has been listed in the VAM reference as VAM-6.

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United States

USA Coin Album: Distinguishing Early Proof Coins - A Blend of Science and Intuition (Part 1)

Posted on 11/11/2014

Since the beginning of modern proof coin sales in 1936, there has been little difficulty in establishing whether or not a coin is indeed a proof.

Though the first emission of proof cents and nickels that year were not as fully brilliant as later pieces, they were nonetheless distinguishable from currency strikes, and that has been the rule ever since. But when collectors attempt to identify pre-1936 coins as proofs there may be some difficulty. Therein lies the theme of this month's column.



Some disagreement still exists as to when the US Mint made the first coins which would qualify as proofs under current definitions. Scholar Walter Breen pegged this date as 1817, as proof cents are known of Newcomb variety N-6. Indeed, NGC has certified one such coin as PF 63 BN. Some earlier issues have been certified by both of the major grading services as SP (specimen) strikes, but it's not certain whether their special status was intentional or just a serendipitous coincidence. An examination of coins from the 1790s and early 1800s struck at other nation's mints suggests that somewhat prooflike surfaces were the norm under the technology of that period, unless the dies were severely worn or pitted. The SP designation is typically reserved for coins that combine reflective fields with superior strikes and surfaces.

Proofs of various denominations are known from the 1820s and '30s, but these

were made sporadically and appear to have been struck on request rather than as a matter of routine. Proof coin minting accelerated during the 1840s and early '50s, and by 1854 the US Mint was making proofs of its silver and copper coins on a regular basis. Gold proofs are not known for all denominations until the Mint began to advertise complete or partial proof sets for sale in 1858.

In older auction catalogs, let's say those before about 1980, it was a common practice to identify any early U. S. coin having prooflike fields as "proof." A few of these have stood the test of time, but most have since been correctly identified as simply early strikes from fresh dies or coins struck from dies that had been vigorously repolished to remove erosion lines or clash marks. This was a learning process that accelerated with the creation of certified/encapsulated grading in the 1980s. I daresay that some of the coins labeled as proofs during the first couple years of certified grading would fail to make the cut if submitted raw today, but most of these have been weeded out through resubmissions at a later date. Other coins that were cataloged at auction as proofs and then submitted for grading were instead certified as MS DPL (Mint State, Deep Prooflike).

Though I've been around coin collecting nearly my entire life, prior to joining NGC my access to early United States proof coins had been limited by their rarity and cost. I'd never been in a position to collect or deal in pre-1850s proofs, though in my youth I'd seen many of them displayed as part of the Smithsonian Institution's National Numismatic Collection. The fabulous Lilly Collection was exhibited there for many years, but under less than ideal viewing conditions. One had to get down almost to the floor for the light to reflect properly off of the coins' fields, and at that distance they were too far away to make out any details. A similar display of the former U. S. Mint Cabinet proof coins was also presented not far from the Lilly pieces, but the same challenge existed in viewing them.

In 1996 I had the opportunity to finally examine these coins close up and actually handle them as I would coins at NGC. I was joined by then-NGC grader Jeff Isaac for a tour of the NNC's storage cabinets which was guided personally by Curator Richard Doty. Our mission was to examine and take notes on all of the early proof coins that had been preserved by the Philadelphia Mint for its own cabinet, which was ultimately transferred to the Smithsonian in 1923. If any doubts existed in my mind regarding my ability to distinguish true proofs from prooflike pieces, they ended that day. Seeing undisputed proofs that were traceable to the Mint's own collection forever cemented in my mind what qualities constituted true proof status. This knowledge has served me well, as NGC continues to get coins that rest right on that fine line between MS DPL, Specimen and Proof.

Determining whether a coin having reflective fields is a true proof is more a matter

of studying its die state and strike than one of measuring the depth of its mirrors. Striking sharpness, however, may be unreliable in some instances. I’ve seen a number of weakly struck coins that were unquestionably proofs, an example being the 1845 cent NGC-certified as PF 62 RB which was sold by Heritage Auctions as part of the Adam Mervis Collection. This cent is rather poorly struck, and it would be hard to convince a novice that it’s a proof, yet it was from the N-14 die marriage which is known to have been coined only as proofs.

David W. Lange's column, “USA Coin Album,” appears monthly in the Numismatist, the official publication of the [American Numismatic Association](#).

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United States

From the NGC Archives: 1847 Coronet Half Eagle

Posted on 11/11/2014

The nation's first gold rush began in the late 1820s in northern Georgia and the Carolinas.

Ten years later, branches of the United States Mint were opened in Dahlonega, Georgia (mintmark D) and Charlotte, North Carolina (letter C) to coin this bullion.



While the 1847-C half eagle enjoyed a high production by Charlotte Mint standards (84,151 pieces), this figure is actually quite low for circulating coins. And circulate they did. Author and specialist Douglas Winter reported the existence of only two mint state coins, and he added that examples in About Uncirculated preservation are very rare. This lovely specimen is quite well struck for a Charlotte Mint coin, and it retains much of its mint luster within the legends and around the devices. Additionally, this attractive half eagle has very clean surfaces. Rare thus, it is a very desirable coin.

Are you interested in learning more about these coins? Click [here](#) to visit the NGC Coin Explorer and read on.

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NCS Conservation Showcase: China 1984 Gold 100 Yuan Haungdi

Posted on 11/11/2014

Modern coins can develop residues and spots that may affect a coin's grade. NCS conservation can often help return a coin's surfaces to their original state.

Modern coins can be especially prone to developing certain kinds of residues. These residues are not only unattractive but can have adverse effects on the grade. Removing these kinds of residues leaves a coin that is more aesthetically pleasing and will grade significantly better.

This 1984 Gold Chinese 100 Yuan was submitted to NCS with the hopes that the unattractive hazing

residue and reddish copper spots could be safely removed and leave a coin with an original surface. Taking a bit of extra care, conservators at NCS were able to bring the coin back to a more beautiful original state. This coin was able to grade very well with NGC following the conservation work.

BEFORE CONSERVATION



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AFTER CONSERVATION



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Chinese Coins: Platinum Panda Coins

Posted by Peter Anthony on 12/16/2014

A handful of Chinese Panda coins, including the 1994 to 1997 Platinum coins, are struck by other mints.

The Giant Panda bear has become one of the most popular and respected symbols of the People's Republic of China. The image of a Panda is used in countless ways around the world, but it always brings to mind its homeland. In like fashion Panda coins are now China's best-known numismatic symbol. Worldwide they are the most popular and collected Chinese coin.

A couple of weeks ago I attended the unveiling of the 2015 Panda series in Beijing. In this presentation Panda coins were repeatedly called "national treasures." This phrase was also used in several new promotional short films from China Gold Coin Inc.

With this background it is safe to assume that all Chinese Panda coins are minted in China, right? Wrong! Official, legal tender Chinese Panda coins have been minted in other countries, too. Of course China is where most Pandas are struck, but a handful are products of the Perth Mint in Australia.

Between 1994 and 1997 there were eight platinum Pandas issued. All of them were minted in Australia. By all accounts the reason for this is that the China Mint was so busy striking other coins at this time that they maxed-out their capacity. In 1995 alone the China Mint issued more than 155 different coins.



China 1994 Platinum Panda

Martin Weiss, the founder and former owner of Panda America, has talked about the difficulty this caused his company. When coins were sold out it was impossible to get more deliveries.

So the China Mint subcontracted out the platinum Panda job to the Perth Mint. To me it's not a surprise that it was platinum coins that were chosen for this. The platinum Pandas were the quintessential difficult, small job. The 1993 platinum Pandas were struck in Shanghai, so the Mint had recent experience with this kind of coin.

Platinum is a harder metal than silver or gold. This means it requires more pressure to strike a platinum coin and the dies often break. With the China Mint's coin presses running flat out the last thing needed was a minor job that caused production delays. Mintage for 1994 was just 2,500 for the 1/10 oz. platinum pandas and 5,000 for the 1/20 oz. coins.

Because they were struck outside of China the 1994-1997 platinum Pandas were not shipped in the typical mint-sealed pouches. The coins are sometimes found packaged in pouches, but these were added later.

The little platinum Pandas found a market in jewelry, but collectors generally ignored them. Thousands were melted within a few years of their release. Coin and jewelry dealers turned them into bars and profited from the rise in platinum's price. Today, all 1/10 or 1/20 oz. platinum Panda coins from the 1990s are either scarce or rare. The 1997s have very small actual mintages and are worth thousands of dollars in Mint State condition.

The 1993-1997 platinum Pandas are a perfect compact, interesting set to collect with an unusual history. They are covered by two NGC Registry sets: Platinum

1/20 Ounce Panda, 1993-1997, Mint State and Proof and Platinum 1/10 Ounce Panda, 1993-1997, Mint State and Proof. And speaking of the NGC Registry, there is a new web page explaining it for Asian collectors. To view, click [here](#).

Happy collecting.

Peter Anthony is an expert on Chinese modern coins with a particular focus on Panda coins. He is an analyst for the [NGC Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide](#) as well as a consultant on Chinese modern coins.

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United States

Martin Weiss and Chinese Panda Coins

Posted by Peter Anthony on 12/16/2014

Martin Weiss, founder of Panda America, discusses the popular Chinese Panda series.

It might be truthfully said that old coin dealers don't die, they just fade away. Very few are remembered for long after they make their last deal. There are exceptions, though. These are dealers who change the face of the entire field. In the USA., B. Max Mehl, who awakened the public to the potential value of the coins in their pockets, instantly comes to mind. For modern Chinese coins, Martin Weiss is probably even more important.

In China the Panda, and the coins series that honors it, are called "national treasures." While the animal itself is unfortunately endangered, if not for Martin Weiss the Panda coin might well be extinct. In the Panda's earliest days it was his advertising that caught the public's eye. It was Mr. Weiss who proposed that the coin design change each year. This innovation, combined with the exquisite designs of the China Mint, was the key to making the Panda a collectible coin. Mr. Weiss was also the sponsor for the first silver Pandas, the smallest Panda ever, the creator of the Unicorn series, the Inventions and Discoveries series, the founder of Panda America, the largest Panda distributor in the world for decades and much more. And he did it while making friends everywhere he went.



[Click to watch the Martin Weiss video](#)

Any meeting with Mr. Weiss is punctuated by frequent flashes of his wit and cleverness. For example, when Mr. Weiss entered the coin business he needed to establish credit arrangements with other coin dealers. One large dealer with a reputation for toughness gave him a very long and detailed credit application. Mr. Weiss took note.

The owner of this same company also noted the newcomer's success with his Panda distributorship. Around six months later he met with Mr. Weiss and offered to buy Panda America from him. Mr. Weiss replied that Panda America was already a major company in its own right. The other dealer scoffed. At that time Panda America had only one employee besides Mr. Weiss.

The dealer challenged Mr. Weiss. "What kind of wholesale network do you have? How many dealers do you work with?" Mr. Weiss replied, "1,500." Remember, this was 1982 long before instant credit checks. The dealer looked stunned.

"How could you do credit checks on so many people so fast?" Mr. Weiss looked the man in the eye and answered, "I just call your office and ask the receptionist if someone is a customer of yours."

Fortunately, Mr. Weiss, hasn't faded away and can share his memories with us. These are crucial to our long-term understanding of modern Chinese coins. I hope you enjoy the interviews with this international treasure as much as I enjoyed doing them.

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Legendary Kann / Sweeny 1900 Peking Set at Macau Auction

Posted on 11/11/2014

The NGC-graded China 1900 Peking set of restrikes is the planned highlight of the November 30 Champion Macau Auction.

The 1900 Peking Dragon Silver Dollar series is famous among collectors of Chinese coins. Eduard Kann published information about the Peking Dollar for the first time in his 1954 catalog. In 1995, *The Journal of East Asian Numismatics* published James Sweeny's article on the Peking 1900 coins based on his extensive research of over 20 years. Sweeny's estimate of 10-15 sets of the 1900 Peking restrikes appears high; we suspect the correct number is closer to 10 overall sets. In the 2011 book, *Top Chinese Coins – Silver*, the 1900 Peking series was elected as the number one series of Chinese struck coins.

In Kann's account of how the dies were bought and sold, it seems that the final sale of the Peking Dragon Dollar dies was to the Shanghai collector, Chen Ren-tao, who moved to Hong Kong in 1947. Four dies for these coins (the 10 Cents die is missing) were purchased in the early 1950s from Chen Ren-tao for HKD 900,000 by a directive of the Chinese Premier Chou En Lai to the Chinese Culture Ministry. The dies are currently on display at the China National Museum in Beijing.

This 1900 Peking set was sent with the other Kann specimen of the 1900 Peking dollar to the chief curator of the British Royal Mint, G. Dryer, for metallurgic testing and study in 1981. The coins owned by Kann and sold in the 1971 auction may be the earliest restrikes from the original dies as they are sharper in detail than any other examples we have seen. Sweeny purchased this set and consigned it to Champion's "Sweeny 1900" collection auction in 1995. The Sweeny 1900 Peking set sold for USD 46,000 to its current owner, who has now consigned this set back to Champion after almost 20 years. This is a great opportunity to own this historic set of Chinese numismatic history.

This set is certified by NGC in the following grades: One Dollar, NGC MS 61; 50 Cents, NGC MS 61; 20 Cents, NGC MS 63; 10 Cents, NGC MS 61; 5 Cents, NGC MS 61. Estimate USD 250,000-500,000.



Left: China 1900 \$1 Peking L&M-6A Restrike, NGC MS 61
Right: China 1900 50C Peking L&M-7A Restrike, NGC MS 61
Click images to enlarge.

James Sweeny authored *A Numismatic History of The Birmingham Mint*. The Birmingham Mint (at Heaton) produced some of the rarest series in Chinese numismatics, such as the Hunan, Shensi, Chekiang, and Kiangnan provincial patterns.



Left: China 1900 20C Peking L&M-8A Restrike, NGC MS 63
Right: China 1900 10C Peking L&M-9A Restrike, NGC MS 61
Click images to enlarge.

Rare Taiwan “Old Man,” Lotus (Ju-I), Bipao, and "Jin Shen" Military Ration Silver Dollars from the J.C. Lee Collection will also appear at the Macau auction, representing the finest group of the earliest Chinese silver dollars offered in recent

years. Each example has superb luster and extraordinary appeal. It is a great opportunity to acquire these seldom-seen Chinese rarities.



China 1900 5C 10-A Restrike NGC MS 61
Click image to enlarge.

These Taiwan silver dollars are also graded by NGC as follows:

- CHINA-TAIWAN ND (1838-50) Old Man Dollar Silver, with Chopmark "+", L&M316, NGC AU Details
- CHINA-TAIWAN ND (1838-50) Old Man Dollar Silver, with Chopmark "+", L&M316, NGC XF Details
- CHINA-TAIWAN ND (1853) Ju-I Military Ration Dollar Silver, L&M323, NGC XF Details
- CHINA-TAIWAN ND (1853) Bi Pao Military Ration Dollar Silver, with Chopmarked "Ku", L&M325, NGC XF Details
- CHINA-TAIWAN ND (1836) Military Ration Dollar Silver, 5 dots, L&M313, NGC F Details

Additional rarities from the Macau auction are as follows:

- CHINA-ANHWEI 1898 One Dollar Silver, flat Chinese character "4" in date and small rosette, L&M204, Y45.2, K53a, NGC MS 66. Finest Known
- CHINA-KWANGTUNG ND (1890-1908) One Dollar Silver, L&M133, Y203, NGC MS65. Gem.
- CHINA-SHENSI ND (1898) 5 Cents Silver Pattern, Heaton Mint, L&M377, K159, NGC SP 63. Very Rare
- CHINA-KIANGNAN ND (1897) One Dollar Silver, ornamental edge, A-Cross-Strokes very visible, attractive toning, L&M210A, Y145.1, NGC MS 62. Choice

- CHINA-FENGTIEN ND (1897) "Teng-Tien" 10 Cents Brass Pattern, dies from Otto Beh Mint and coins from Louis Schuler, L&M470, KM-Pn2a, NGC AU Details. Extremely Rare

Auction Preview Schedule:

11/9 Taipei iAsure (R. 50-51, No. 163 Nan King W. Rd.)
886-2-25551761
10:00-17:00

11/22 Mish International (1154 University Dr., Menlo Park, CA)
+1 650-324-9110
10:00-17:00 By appointment only

11/29 10:00-17:00 Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16

11/30 09:00-12:00 Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16

For more information, please visit cghka.com or email Michael Chou at championhka@gmail.com.

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Stephen Winthrop Collection Sale to Benefit ALS Research

Posted on 11/11/2014

The Stephen Winthrop Collection of US Type Coins and Commemoratives will be featured in the Stack's Bowers Americana Showcase and Rarities Night Auction on February 5–6, 2015. All proceeds will be donated to ALS research at Harvard University.

Stack's Bowers Galleries is pleased to present the private collection of United States coins assembled over the past four decades by Stephen Winthrop at its February 2015 Americana Showcase and Rarities Night Auction.

Stephen Winthrop, a descendant of one of New England's most famous families, grew up in New York City and started collecting coins when he was eight years old. His first focus was to assemble a type collection of United States gold coins from the mid-19th century, then a complete set of silver and gold classic United States commemorative coins by type. In his 20s and 30s, he expanded his collection to include gold and silver United States type coinage from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries dating back to the early Mint issues. Stephen hand selected each coin for his collection based on quality and eye appeal. Most of these coins were encapsulated by NGC and PCGS during those companies' formative years and are being offered in their original holders. The exceptional quality combined with the presentation in their early holders will command attention from collectors, dealers, and museum curators alike.

While building his cabinet, one of Mr. Winthrop's favorite series was silver and gold commemoratives. He was a particular buyer, choosing only examples with extraordinary eye appeal.

Mr. Winthrop graduated from Harvard University in 1980. He spent a few years after graduate school working for a global strategy consulting firm, and then in 1992 he formed his own consulting firm helping small nonprofit organizations. He

has served on several boards of directors, and has played important parts in numerous nonprofit organizations.

A year ago, Mr. Winthrop was diagnosed with ALS, an incurable degenerative disease that attacks an individual’s motor neuron cells, and results in a painless yet progressive weakening of muscles throughout the body. An average patient’s life expectancy is four years. A few months ago, Mr. Winthrop decided to liquidate his entire coin collection and donate 100 percent of the proceeds to finding a cure for ALS. More specifically, the funds will go to the Stephen Winthrop ALS Fund at Harvard University. The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge of 2014 was enormously successful in terms of raising both funds and awareness. “Now the time has come,” Mr. Winthrop said, “to make a lasting splash in the fight against ALS.”

Stack’s Bowers Galleries is pleased to join Mr. Winthrop and Harvard University in this philanthropic venture. “We will be including additional lots with all proceeds going to Mr. Winthrop’s charity at Harvard, and are inviting consignments of donated numismatic items to be sold in this special section of our catalog,” said Brian Kendrella, president of Stack’s Bowers Galleries. “In addition, we are accepting consignments of United States coins, tokens and medals to be showcased alongside The Winthrop Collection in our Americana Showcase and Rarities Night Auction.”

For more information on how to consign U.S. coins, medals and tokens to this event, contact a Stack’s Bowers Galleries consignment specialist at 800.458.4646 (West Coast), 800.566.2580 (East Coast), or email info@stacksbowers.com.

This is a guest article. The thoughts and opinions in the piece are those of their author and are not necessarily the thoughts of the Certified Collectibles Group.

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